Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 048595
ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00
NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-11 FMC-01 TRSE-00
H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSF-01
OES-07 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 AF-10
ARA-10 /168 R

DRAFTED BY S/AR: AGJAMES/MW
APPROVED BY S/AR:ELRICHARDSON
S/AR:GHALDRICH
D/LOS:ADBERLIND
NEA/INS:JMALLOT
----------026331 242151Z /61
O R 242126Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048595

FOR AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE

1. I WOULD LIKE TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON THE ISSUE OF
THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. WHILE AMERASINGHE'S
STATUS IS STILL UNSETTLED, IT APPEARS VERY UNLIKELY THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 048595

HE WILL CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT. THE VARIOUS REGIONAL GROUPS
MET DURING THE FEBRUARY 6-17 INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON LOS
IN NEW YORK. ALL EXCEPT THE LATIN GROUP EXPRESSED THEIR
SUPPORT FOR AMERASINGHE CONTINUING IN AN INDEPENDENT CAPAC-
ITY. ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE THE LATIN GROUP
CAUCUSED, AND BY A VOTE OF 10 TO 2 TOOK THE POSITION THAT
THEY WOULD OPPOSE AMERASINGHE CONTINUING AS PRESIDENT

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SINCE HE WAS NOT A MEMBER OF A NATIONAL DELEGATION. WHILE WE SUSPECT THAT THIS WAS NOT THEIR REAL REASON FOR OPPOSING AMERASINGHE (THE LATIN COASTAL STATES SEEMED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS POSSIBLE DISPOSITION TO TAKE A SYMPATHETIC VIEW TOWARD LL/GDS AND HIS READINESS TO DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMITTEES) THEY HELD OUT THEIR DECISION AS ONE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT IT WOULD BE AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT FOR THE PRESIDENT NOT TO BE A MEMBER OF A NATIONAL DELEGATION. HAVING TAKEN THEIR DECISION ALLEGEDLY ON THE BASIS OF PRINCIPLE IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW THE LATINS CAN REVERSE THEMSELVES. IF THIS SHOULD BE THE CASE, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR AMERASINGHE TO CONTINUE AFTER HIS CONTRACT WITH THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT EXPIRES.

2. WE HEARD IN NEW YORK THAT THE PRIME MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA, INDIA AND SINGAPORE MIGHT APPROACH PRIME MINISTER JAYAWARDENE AT THE CANBERRA REGIONAL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING LAST WEEK URGING HIM TO RECONSIDER HIS DECISION NOT TO PUT AMERASINGHE ON THE SRI LANKAN DELEGATION. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT RAISED WITH JAYAWARDENE IN CANBERRA. ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRALIAN REPORT, THE INDIAN AND AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE MATTER. THE INDIANS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INDELICACY OF APPEARING TO MEDDLE IN INTERNAL SRI LANKAN AFFAIRS. FURTHER, THE AUSTRALIANS REPORT THE INDIANS SEEMED CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 048595

PRECEDENT OF AMERASINGHE CONTINUING IN AN INDEPENDENT CAPACITY. ALTHOUGH THE AUSTRALIAN REPORT DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE MATTER WILL BE PURSUED BY THE THREE GOVERNMENTS WITH THE GSL, THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY DOES NOT THINK IT WILL BE.

3. THE NEXT STEPS ARE NOT YET CLEAR. UNLESS SOME NEW ELEMENT IS INTRODUCED AMERASINGHE WILL PRESUMABLY IN DUE COURSE ADVISE THE ASIAN GROUP THAT HE IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT AND IT WILL BE UP TO THE ASIANS TO AGREE ON A SUCCESSOR EITHER AMONG THEMSELVES OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AFRICAN GROUP.

4. IT IS A PITY THAT THE LATINS HAVE TAKEN THIS POSITION AND EVEN MORE DEPLORABLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA HAS BEEN SO SHORTSIGHTED IN NOT AGREEING TO CONTINUE AMERASINGHE AT LEAST NOTIONALLY AS A MEMBER OF THEIR LOS DELEGATION. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE THINK A FURTHER APPROACH BY THE US TO JAYAWARDENE WOULD BE WARRANTED AND ARE SENDING YOU INSTRUCTIONS BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM TO DO SO.

5. FOR LONDON: PLEASE INFORM ARCULUS OF FOREGOING.

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 048595
ORIGIN DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 /020 R

66011
DRAFTED BY:S/AR:AGJAMES
APPROVED BY:S/AR:AGJAMES
----------072552 011106Z /15
R 282235Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 6463

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048595

FOR AMBASSADOR BREWSTER

FOL STATE 048595 SENT ACTION COLOMBO INFO CANBERRA GENEVA LONDON
USUN FEB 24, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048595

FOR AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE

1. I WOULD LIKE TO BRING YOU UP TO DATE ON THE ISSUE OF
THE PRESIDENCY OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. WHILE AMERASINGHE'S
STATUS IS STILL UNSETTLED, IT APPEARS VERY UNLIKELY THAT
HE WILL CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT. THE VARIOUS REGIONAL GROUPS
MET DURING THE FEBRUARY 6-17 INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON LOS
IN NEW YORK. ALL EXCEPT THE LATIN GROUP EXPRESSED THEIR
SUPPORT FOR AMERASINGHE CONTINUING IN AN INDEPENDENT CAPAC-
ITY. ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CONFERENCE THE LATIN GROUP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

CAUCUSED, AND BY A VOTE OF 10 TO 2 TOOK THE POSITION THAT THEY WOULD OPPOSE AMERASINGHE CONTINUING AS PRESIDENT SINCE HE WAS NOT A MEMBER OF A NATIONAL DELEGATION. WHILE WE SUSPECT THAT THIS WAS NOT THEIR REAL REASON FOR OPPOSING AMERASINGHE (THE LATIN COASTAL STATES SEEMED TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT HIS POSSIBLE DISPOSITION TO TAKE A SYMPATHETIC VIEW TOWARD LL/GDS AND HIS READINESS TO DOWNGRADE THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMITTEES) THEY HELD OUT THEIR DECISION AS ONE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT IT WOULD BE AN UNDESIRABLE PRECEDENT FOR THE PRESIDENT NOT TO BE A MEMBER OF A NATIONAL DELEGATION. HAVING TAKEN THEIR DECISION ALLEGEDLY ON THE BASIS OF PRINCIPLE IT IS HARD TO SEE HOW THE LATINS CAN REVERSE THEMSELVES. IF THIS SHOULD BE THE CASE, IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR AMERASINGHE TO CONTINUE AFTER HIS CONTRACT WITH THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT EXPIRES.

2. WE HEARD IN NEW YORK THAT THE PRIME MINISTERS OF AUSTRALIA, INDIA AND SINGAPORE MIGHT APPROACH PRIME MINISTER JAYAWARDENE AT THE CANBERRA REGIONAL HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING LAST WEEK URGING HIM TO RECONSIDER HIS DECISION NOT TO PUT AMERASINGHE ON THE SRI LANKAN DELEGATION. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON THAT THE MATTER WAS NOT RAISED WITH JAYAWARDENE IN CANBERRA. ACCORDING TO THE AUSTRALIAN REPORT, THE INDIAN AND AUSTRALIAN MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE MATTER. THE INDIANS WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE INDELICACY OF APPEARING TO MEDDLE IN INTERNAL SRI LANKAN AFFAIRS. FURTHER, THE AUSTRALIANS REPORT THE INDIANS SEEMED CONCERNED ABOUT THE PRECEDENT OF AMERASINGHE CONTINUING IN AN INDEPENDENT CAPACITY. ALTHOUGH THE AUSTRALIAN REPORT DOES NOT INDICATE WHETHER THE MATTER WILL BE PURSUED BY THE THREE GOVERNMENTS WITH THE GSL, THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY DOES NOT THINK IT WILL BE.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3. THE NEXT STEPS ARE NOT YET CLEAR. UNLESS SOME NEW ELEMENT IS INTRODUCED AMERASINGHE WILL PRESUMABLY IN DUE COURSE ADVISE THE ASIAN GROUP THAT HE IS UNABLE TO CONTINUE AS PRESIDENT AND IT WILL BE UP TO THE ASIANS TO AGREE ON A SUCCESSOR EITHER AMONG THEMSELVES OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AFRICAN GROUP.

4. IT IS A PITY THAT THE LATINS HAVE TAKEN THIS POSITION AND EVEN MORE DEPLORABLE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA HAS BEEN SO SHORTSIGHTED IN NOT AGREEING TO CONTINUE AMERASINGHE AT LEAST NOTIONALLY AS A MEMBER OF THEIR LOS

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

DELEGATION. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES WE THINK A FURTHER AP-
PROACH BY THE US TO JAYAWARDENE WOULD BE WARRANTED AND ARE
SENDING YOU INSTRUCTIONS BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM TO DO SO.

5. FOR LONDON: PLEASE INFORM ARCULUS OF FOREGOING.
VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, LAW OF THE SEA, NEGOTIATIONS, POSITION AUTHORIZATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE048595
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: AGJAMES/MW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780086-0890
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780214/aaaaaluq.tel
Line Count: 230
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 11b3b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3481078
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS - PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE
TAGS: PLOS, PORG, CE, (AMERASINGHE, HAMILTON SHIRLEY)
To: COLOMBO
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/11b3b5cf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014